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Message Text

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PAGE 01 ACCRA 06954 211128Z

67
ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 /013 W
---------- 116863
R 210858Z SEP 76
FM AMEMBASSY ACCRA
TO USIA WASHDC
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 4458
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY MONROVIA
AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

UNCLAS ACCRA 6954

USIAC

SECSTATE FOR CU/AF: USIA FOR IAA

E.O. 11652: N/A
SUBJ: PROPOSED AMSPEC SCULPTOR

REF: USIA 27986

1. POST HAS PROPOSED NOMINATION OF SCULPTOR JOHN MCCARTY AS FY 77 AMSPEC TO ENABLE HIM TO CONDUCT WORKSHOPS IN MODERN AMERICAN METHODS OF SCULPTURE, LECTURE ON THE AMERICAN SCULPTURE TRADITION, AND TO ERECT AN ABSTRACT SCULPTURE ON THE GROUNDS OF THE NEW USIS CENTER IN ACCRA DURING A TWO TO THREE WEEK VISIT PLANNED FOR NOVEMBER, 1976.

2. MCCARTY HAS BEEN STUDYING THE TRADITION OF SCULPTURE AND WOODCARVING IN GHANA AND WEST AFRICA PREPARATORY TO DESIGNING THE SCULPTURE AND PLANNING THE WORKSHOP SESSIONS WITH INTERESTED YOUNG GHANAIAN SCULPTORS. HE INTENDS TO CONSTRUCT A SIMPLE FOUNDRY IN ACCRA WHICH WILL BE USED FOR COMPLETION OF THE USIS SCULPTURE AND FOR WORKSHOPS AND LEFT FOR THE USE OF GHANAIAN SCULPTORS. HE WILL ALSO LECTURE ON MODERN AMERICAN SCULPTURE IN ACCRA AND AT THE FINE ARTS DEPARTMENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN KUMASI.

UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 ACCRA 06954 211128Z

3. THE RESULTING SCULPTURE, PROMINENTLY PLACED ON THE GROUNDS

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

IN FRONT OF THE USIS LIBRARY, WILL NOT ONLY ENHANCE THE CENTER'S ROLE AS A SHOWCASE OF AMERICAN CULTURE BUT WILL BE ADOPTED HENCEFORTH AS A THEME-CENTER AND SYMBOL OF ALL AMERICAN CENTER ACTIVITIES. AS PRESENTLY ENVISIONED, SHAPE WILL BE BASED ON THE ARCH, WHICH WILL NOT ONLY FAINTLY RECALL THE STOOL OF GHANAIAN TRADITIONAL CULTURE BUT SYMBOLIZE A BRIDGE BETWEEN CULTURES.

4. AS AMSPEC, MCCARTY COULD ALSO LECTURE ON AMERICAN SCULPTURE AND CONTEMPORARY ART AT OTHER ANGLOPHONE WEST AFRICAN POSTS, IF THERE IS INTEREST.

5. FOR FURTHER BACKGROUND, AGENCY AND DEPARTMENT ARE REFERRED TO RICHARD BOARDMAN, ICS/DA, USIA.

6. POST HAD UNDERSTOOD THAT PROCEDURES FOR NOMINATING MCCARTY HAD BEEN UNDERWAY SINCE PAO'S DISCUSSIONS IN CU/AF LAST JULY.
WE EARNESTLY HOPE THAT ANY DELAY WILL NOT JEOPARDIZE HIS ARRIVAL ON SCHEDULE.
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To: USIA
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